

8 Past Simple (I lived) or Present Perfect (I have lived)

Compare the Past Simple and the Present Perfect:

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| 1 | <p>We use the Past Simple to talk about something that happened at a particular time in the past:</p> <p><i>I met John at 4 o'clock.</i> <i>When did Jane go to India? ~ In June.</i> <i>Martin bought a new car last week.</i></p> | <p>We use the Present Perfect to talk about the past, but not about when things happened:</p> <p><i>I've met John's girlfriend. She's nice.</i> <i>Have you ever been to India? ~ Yes, I have.</i> <i>I have never bought a new car.</i></p> |
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| 2 | <p>We use the Past Simple for situations or actions during a period of time that ENDED in the past:</p> <p><i>I worked there for two years. I left last year.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>past</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">I worked there for 2 years.</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p> </div> </div> <p><i>We lived in that house for a long time; then we moved to this one.</i> <i>Our company opened two new shops last summer.</i></p> | <p>We use the Present Perfect for situations or actions during a period of time from the past to NOW:</p> <p><i>He has worked here for two years.</i> <i>(He still works here.)</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>past</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">He has worked here for 2 years.</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p> </div> </div> <p><i>We've lived in this flat since we got married.</i> <i>(We still live in it.)</i> <i>We opened two shops last summer.</i> <i>Since then, we have opened two more.</i> <i>(Since then = since that time)</i></p> |
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3 Notice how we often move from the Present Perfect to the Past Simple:

Peter: *Have you ever played this game before?*
 Maria: *Yes, I played it once when I was in England.*
 Peter: *Did you win?*
 Maria: *No, I lost.*

Practice

A Complete the conversation by choosing the correct form in brackets ().

Sarah: ⁰ *Have you ever been* _____ (Have you ever been / Did you ever go) to the United States?
 Jim: Yes, ¹ _____ (I've been / I went) to California last year.
 Sarah: ² _____ (Have you liked / Did you like) it?
 Jim: Yes, ³ _____ (I've enjoyed / I enjoyed) the trip a lot.
 Sarah: What ⁴ _____ (have you done / did you do) there?
 Jim: ⁵ _____ (I've visited / I visited) Hollywood, Disneyland and San Francisco.
⁶ _____ (Have you been / Did you go) to California, Sarah?
 Sarah: No, but ⁷ _____ (I've booked / I booked) a holiday there.
 I've got my ticket and I'm going next week!

B Complete the dialogues using the Present Perfect (*I have seen*) or Past Simple (*I saw*).

A: I ⁰ saw (see) Jack last night.

B: Oh really. I ¹ _____ (not / see) him for months. How is he?

A: We ² _____ (go) to the theatre last Saturday.

B: ³ _____ (you / enjoy) the play?

A: Yes, it ⁴ _____ (be) very good.

A: I ⁵ _____ (never / hear) of this group before. Are they famous in your country?

B: Yes, they are very popular. They ⁶ _____ (be) famous in my country for years.

A: What ⁷ _____ (you / do) last weekend?

B: I ⁸ _____ (stay) at home. I ⁹ _____ (need) a rest.

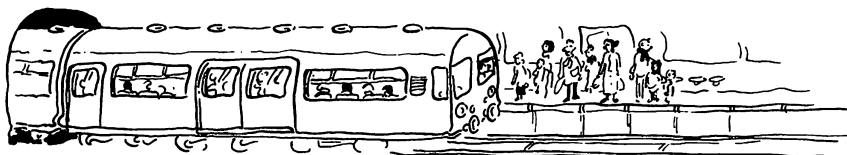
A: ¹⁰ _____ (you / ever / win) a competition?

B: Yes, I ¹¹ _____ (win) a photographic competition in 1992.

A: So, John is your best friend. ¹² _____ (you / meet) him when you were at university?

B: Yes. We ¹³ _____ (be) friends for more than ten years.

C Complete this paragraph about the London Underground by putting in the Present Perfect or Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets ().



The London Underground

London ⁰ has had (have) an underground train system since the 19th Century. The London Underground ¹ _____ (start) in 1863, when Victorian engineers and workers ² _____ (build) the Metropolitan railway. This railway line ³ _____ (go) from Paddington Station to Farringdon Street Station, and steam engines ⁴ _____ (pull) the coaches. Eight more lines ⁵ _____ (open) since then. The world's first underground electric railway ⁶ _____ (open) in 1890. This line ⁷ _____ (go) from the City of London to Stockwell in South London. The most modern line is the Jubilee line, which ⁸ _____ (open) in 1977. Since the London Underground ⁹ _____ (begin), many other cities, such as New York and Moscow, ¹⁰ _____ (build) their own systems.